

C1
485
end
transmitting said notification to said client device according to said received network address.

48. (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for implementing the method of claim 34 and transferring image data in said network having said image input device, client device and remote storage device.

REMARKS

A. Specification Amendments

The specification is amended to be consistent with the drawings.

B. Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 19-48 are presented for examination. Claims 2, 6, 9-12, and 15-18 are canceled without prejudice and disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13, and 14 are amended. Claims 19-48 are new.

Independent claims 1 and 5 are amended to incorporate the limitations of their respectively, canceled, dependent claims 2 and 6. That is, claims 1 and 5 are amended to better recite that the input device sends the input data to a remote storage device (remote from both the input device and the destination device), and then notifies the destination device that the input data is ready for pickup at the remote storage device. Claims 1 and 5 are further amended to clarify that the destination device itself selects the remote storage device by providing the network address of the remote storage device to the input device. Furthermore, the destination device itself initiates the retrieval of the input data from the remote storage device (or alternatively from the input device) at some time after having received the notification from the input device specifying that the input data is ready for pickup.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 are amended to maintain a proper antecedent basis on their amended base claim 1.

Dependent claims 7 and 8 are amended to maintain a proper antecedent basis on their amended base claim 5.

Independent claim 13 is amended to incorporate similar limitations as recited in amended claims 1 and 5, and independent claim 14 is amended to be made dependent on claim 13.

New Independent claims 19 and 34 recite similar limitation as amended claims 1, 5, and 13.

New claims 19-48 also better recite additional features of the present invention as specifically recited in the specification, or as understood from the text of the specification by one versed in the art. For example, new claims 21 and 36 state that the image input device provides a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) for locating and accessing the image data, as is specifically recited in the specification. However, as it is known in the art, an URL address includes not only the network address of a specific machine, but also the directory path within the specific machine for locating a specific file, i.e. image. It appeared that this feature of an URL (distinct from the cited prior art) might have been overlooked by the Examiner, and therefore new claims 20 and 35 were added to more clearly recite that the image input device provides information for locating the image data within the file structure of the remote storage device. This is useful because multiple different image files may be stored in the remote storage device, and the input device is capable of pointing to a particular image file within the remote storage device by using a URL identifying the particular image file.

No new matter is added by the above amended.

Office Action Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §120(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,996,029 to Sugiyama et al.

Specifically in regards to claims 2 and 6 (whose limitations have been incorporated into claims 1 and 5, respectively), the Office action states that Sugiyama et al. show "transmitting the input data to a network location remote from the destination device based on the request (col. 1 lines 22-29, col. 35 lines 23-29, col. 37 lines 28-60, col. 38, lines 34-48".

Amended claims 1, 5, and 13, as well as new claims 19 and 34 clarify that the input device transfers the input data to a storage location remote from both the input device and the destination device. This is in direct conflict with the teachings of the cited prior art. Specifically referring to the cited excerpts of the

cited prior art, Sugiyama et al. shows several computers ST1, ST2, and ST3 (see Fig. 31) each of which may contact a network scanner and request a scanning operation. Whichever of computers ST1, ST2 or ST3 requests the scanning operation is designated as the "host computer" in exclusive communication with the scanner. In the example of the cited excerpt, computer ST1 requests a scanning operation and is therefore given the designation "host computer" ST1 in Fig. 31. Sugiyama et al. explain that in the process of scanning an image, image data is placed in a buffer memory H (internal to the scanner) for transmitting to the "host computer" ST1 (i.e. to the computer that requested the scanning operation).

Contrary to the presently claims invention, Sugiyama et al. do not teach or suggest that the requesting computer can submit the network address of a storage location remote from the scanner itself and remote from the requesting computer. Truly, ST1 has no choice of where Sugiyama et al.'s scanner places the scanned image for transmission onto the network. Sugiyama et al.'s scanner must place the image data in its transmission buffer H, which is an integral part of the network scanner, and transmission buffer H cannot be removed from the scanner since it is the means by which the scanner gains transmission access to the network.

Secondly, Sugiyama et al. do not teach or suggest that the requesting computer initiates the retrieval of an image stored in a remote location previously specified by the requesting computer itself. Indeed, Sugiyama et al. show that the network scanner transmits the scanned image (via transmission buffer H) directly to the requesting computer ST1. That is, the requesting computer does not initiate the downloading of the image.

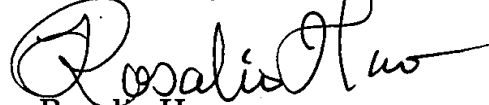
Furthermore, since Sugiyama et al does not suggest that the network can be the internet, they do not teach or suggest using Internet HTTP communication protocol. By using HTTP communication protocol, the present invention permits the destination device to initiate the downloading of an image using the HTTP GET feature, and since the image can be stored at a location remote from the input device, the destination device does not need to wait for, or check if, the input device is busy since the input device is not necessary for retrieving the image data.

Thus, the present invention is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. At the very least, however, it is believed clear that the formal rejection has been overcome. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he/she is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalio Haro

Registration No. 42,633

Please address all correspondence to:
Epson Research and Development, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
150 River Oaks Parkway, Suite 225
San Jose, CA 95134
Phone: (408) 952-6000
Fax: (408) 954-9058
Customer No. 20178

Date: September 3, 2002

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made To Specification**Paragraph beginning on page 10, line 17**

Consistent with the present invention, the method begins with the initiation of transmission at an input device 650 (~~step 505~~). Initiation may occur, for example, by putting a document on a scanner, turning on a camera, or receiving a signal indicating an incoming fax. Receipt of input data therefore generally begins with the input device 650 of Fig. 6. Input device 650 will convert the received images to digital data and may also store the data to a location in input device 650, or another accessible storage location, such as storage 622. Input device 650 may also accept a list of addresses to which the device would like to transfer the input data (step 510). For example, input device 650 may be a fax machine that accepts a document, converts it to digital data, and allows the user to input various network addresses that would like to receive the faxed information.

Paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4

Input device 650 notifies the server that input device 650 has data to transmit by, for example, sending an HTTP request to one or more of the destination addresses, such as client 600 (step 515). If there is no response from the destination device, the destination may be turned off or otherwise unavailable to receive the input data (~~step 528~~ 520). The process may revert to error handling or terminate. If the destination device is turned on, but not functioning, i.e. the request is not accepted by its destination, (step 525), the destination device may return a message that it is unavailable (step 528). If the destination device is turned off (step 520), the request may be returned to input device 650 signaling that the destination device is unavailable (step 527).

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made To Claims

1. (Amended) A method for remote execution of an application over a network ~~comprising including~~ a destination device and an input device, the method comprising the operations, ~~performed by the input device~~, of:

having said input device receiveing input data;

having said destination device send ~~receiving~~ information to said input device identifying a destination address for a remote storage device accessible over said network and remote from said input device and said destination device;

having said input device respond to said receiving of said input data by sending the received input data to said remote storage device in accordance with said destination address, and sending a notification to ~~initiating transmission of the input data by notifying the said~~ destination device indicating that input data is ready for transmission pickup at said remote storage device; and

having ~~receiving a request from the said~~ destination device initiate the retrieval of said input data in response to said notification; and

transmitting the input data to a location based on the request from the destination device.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~converting~~

having said input device receive a request specifying a preferred file format; and having said input device convert the said received input data to said preferred file format based on the request.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

having said input device transmitting status information in response to a status request.

5. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for remote execution of an application in a network ~~comprising~~ having an input device, and a destination device, and a remote storage device remote from the ~~said input device and said destination device~~, the instructions corresponding to computer

tasks ~~comprising executable by a computer and performed by the input device,~~
for:

having said input device receiveing input data;

having said destination device send receiving information to said input device identifying a destination address for said remote storage device;

having said input device respond to said receiving of said input data by sending the received input data to said remote storage device in accordance with said destination address, and sending a notification to initiating transmission of the input data by notifying the said destination device indicating that input data is ready for pickup at said remote storage device; and

having receiving a request from the said destination device initiate the retrieval of said input data in response to said notification; and

transmitting the input data to a location based on the request from the destination device.

7. (Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, further comprising:

having said input device receive a request specifying a preferred file format; and having said input device converting the said input data to said preferred file format based on the request.

8. (Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, further comprising:

having said input device transmitting status information in response to a status request.

13. (Amended) A network data control system ~~comprising an input device and a destination device operatively connected via a network,~~ the system comprising:

an input device for receiving input data, said input device having access to a network;

a destination device remote from said input device and having access to said network;

a remote storage device accessible via said network and remote from said input device and said destination device; wherein

said destination device is effective for transmitting to said input device receiving information identifying a destination address for said remote storage device;

said input device is effective for transferring the input data to said remote storage device and transmitting a notification to said destination device including instructions for accessing the input data from said remote storage device; and initiating transmission of the input data by notifying the destination device that data is ready for transmission;

receiving a request from the destination device; and

transmitting the input data to a location based on the request from the destination device; and

said destination device responds to said notification by for transmitting a request to the input device based on the notification from the input device; and

retrieving the input data from one of the said input device and said remote storage device based on the request.

14. (Amended) The network data control system of claim 13, wherein said input device is a In a network comprising a network scanner and a destination device, the network scanner comprising:

an input mechanism for receiving input data; and

a controller for

receiving information identifying a destination address;

initiating transmission of the input data by notifying the destination device that data is ready for transmission;

receiving a request from the destination device; and

transmitting the input data to a location based on the request from the destination device.